



**DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Burlington Aging Council**  
**Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 3:00pm – 4:30pm**

<b>Member Status</b>	<b>Full Name</b>	<b>June 21st</b>
1 member representing an organization supporting New Americans in Vermont	Symphorien Sikyala	x
1 member representing a healthcare provider	Jeanne Hutchins, MA	x
1 member representing a long-term care organization in Burlington	Shawn T Hallisey	
1 member representing an affordable housing organization in Burlington	Molly Dugan	x
1 member representing an organization working to fight food insecurity in Vermont	Jane Catton	x
1 member representing an organization providing advocacy and support for older adults in VT	Kelly Stoddard Poor	x
1 member representing a senior center in Burlington	Andrea Viets	
1 member representing an organization providing mental health services in Vermont	Alison Miley	x
1 member representing an organization providing transportation services in Vermont	Chris Damiani	x
1 member representing the City's Community and Economic Development Office	Brian Pine*	x
3-5 older adults living in Burlington	Barbara Shaw-Dorso	
3-5 older adults living in Burlington	Glenn McRae*	x
3-5 older adults living in Burlington	Martha Molpus	x
3-5 older adults living in Burlington	Charles J Messing	x
3-5 older adults living in Burlington	Lorna Kay	x
Staff	Marcella Gange	

**ACTION ITEMS**

- Advance the Home Share Vermont Pilot Incentive Program Recommendation to the Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee of City Council (Brian, Marcella).
- Request to Angela Smith-Dieng (DAIL) for presentation August 16 on results of statewide survey (Glenn).
- Request earlier access to Statewide survey report for BAC small group review; also request full data set to pull out Burlington and Chittenden County data (Kelly).
- Build a scope of work for Intern (Glenn, Molly, Marcella).
- Meet with UVM Age Friendly University Initiative to discuss coordination of Interns, and other agendas (Glenn).
- Touch base with City Council to see about best way to gain input and direction (Glenn)
- Form up new working groups (Transportation, Public Spaces, Caregiver Support, Support for older ESL residents) – Glenn will solicit participation.
- Develop ideas for public educational events for fall (Send ideas to Glenn).

## Meeting called to order at 3.03pm

1. Motion to approve agenda 06 21 22 amended as below – proposed JC, second AM - unanimous

2. Motion to approve minutes [05 17 22](#) – proposed BP, second JC - unanimous.

2.1. Next meeting - BAC members agreed to cancel July meeting but to continue on the third Tuesday of the month from 3:00-4:30pm from August onwards. Dates for upcoming meetings: August 16<sup>th</sup>, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, October 18<sup>th</sup>, November 15<sup>th</sup>, Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, Mar 21<sup>st</sup>, April 18<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup> 2023. Send agenda suggestions to Glenn and Brian.

3. Working groups – Updates, next meeting dates, needs:

- Healthcare Workforce Development – (Jane) no updates; work needs to be furthered; focus on Burlington specific programs, or how we support state programs. Discussion with the UVM Age-Friendly University initiative.

- Social Isolation/Inclusion – (Glenn) Social Isolation Data Brief conversation on data collected by SASH on Burlington incidents of social isolation, depression, anxiety, etc., for residents served 2018-2021. AM will present at next meeting on this data. Next Meeting: (tentative) Monday July 18 11:30am – contact Glenn McRae [glennmcræ56@gmail.com](mailto:glennmcræ56@gmail.com) for link.

- Housing – (Molly) -proposal to advance the Home Share Vermont Pilot Incentive Program (Advancing to Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee of City Council). See below and attached documents – to be sent by CEDO to discuss at next CDNR meeting.

4. Discussion: Developing an agenda to produce an aging plan for Burlington by June 2023.

A. DAIL, AARP, etc. Statewide Survey Update and Discussion (Kelly) Research teams meet end of June. Request to DAIL to present at BAC August meeting. KSP will request full data set for Burlington / Chittenden and early access to report.

B. UPDATES:

- Data request update: (Jane, Marcella) Zip code level data from community needs assessment (DAIL, Agewell) requested to have Burlington level data. DAIL is not able to produce the data set by zip code and the contract with the consultancy group has concluded.
- State Aging Plan & Age Friendly Communities -Status (Kelly) Comment period ended April 29:  
[https://asd.vermont.gov/sites/asd/files/documents/VT%20State%20Plan%20on%20Aging%20DRAFT\\_2023-2026.pdf](https://asd.vermont.gov/sites/asd/files/documents/VT%20State%20Plan%20on%20Aging%20DRAFT_2023-2026.pdf) The working group continues to meet monthly with the variety of focus areas. VDH leading focus group work to produce qualitative data for various groups.
- City Department inventory of programs, policies, and initiatives currently underway or anticipated directly or indirectly addressing the needs of Older City residents and workers; and identify planned outreach and survey efforts for 2022. (Marcella) – no progress

C. Building a scope of work for the BAC intern –GM, MD, MG to produce a scope of work and requirements. GM to consult with Age Friendly University initiative at

UVM – also hiring an intern – to see if the scopes and qualifications can be complimentary and how much they might form a working partnership on key issues.

- D. City Council input on what would be most helpful to them in the development and delivery of a Burlington Plan on Aging. GM will touch base with Karen Paul, and with the members of the CDNR (since that committee first developed the BAC initiative) to see how best to solicit input and engagement.
- E. Form new working groups around additional topics to keep moving – see BAC Values and Action Areas. Four areas referenced for near term work, possible intern focus and working group development.

Transportation equity – The Social Isolation/Inclusion workgroup started a conversation looking at micro transit options. This is a big area that ties together many of the other areas to be addressed. Need to first address terminology, e.g., transportation vs. mobility vs. access.

Public Spaces – This also emerges out of discussions of the Social Isolation/Inclusion workgroup looking at mapping spaces, determining access and openness, safety and programming, and public perceptions and knowledge

Caregiver support (Molly, Jeanie) – How can we better support family members and professionals charged with care for people with dementia and Alzheimer's in their home or in congregate settings? There is a dearth of memory care options and nursing care options. Wrap around systems that provide sage and quality care that is sustainable short of higher-level facilities will provide great benefits to the community.

Racial Equity, Inclusion and Belonging and spaces for culturally competent service provision. This includes support for older English learner, former refugee, and immigrant residents and families, providing appropriate information and support infrastructure. First need to understand who is in the population, what is offered through current support structures, what are required and appropriate services, and then how to build a better more supportive structure for expanding opportunity. (Suggestion to invite Pablo Bose to speak to BAC)

- F. What do we need to know (should we use some monthly meetings as group education time and if so what are our priorities to seek out expertise that will be of value?)

Suggestion to establish a series of more public conversations, educating BAC members and including public voice. Some suggested topics:

- i. The Beacon Hill Village Model

[https://www.beaconhillvillage.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=332658&module\\_id=77064](https://www.beaconhillvillage.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=332658&module_id=77064) UVM Center on Aging will be hosting the Director of the program in the fall and is willing to work with BAC to have a Burlington presentation/discussion.

- ii. Dr. Karen Sokol, MD, MPH (CHCB's Doctor-at-Home physician) working on at-home care, safety and wellness for older Vermonters.

iii. Pablo Bose, UVM Department of Geography, author of Refugees in new destinations and small cities: Resettlement in Vermont. Dr. Bose is has done in depth research on refugee populations and the issues they face when resettling in places like Burlington Vermont. His book has a chapter devoted to Aging. A good introduction can be found at: <http://www.spatializingmigration.net/>

iv. Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association's (CATMA) inaugural transportation summit is on October 18, 2022 at the UVM Davis Center to re-connect, re-engage, re-imagine transportation in Chittenden County. Discuss opportunities to add transportation needs for an aging population to their agenda.

Meeting closed at 4.30pm

**Date: June 22, 2022**

**To: Community Development & Neighborhood Revitalization (CDNR) Committee**

**From: Burlington Aging Council's Subcommittee on Housing**

**Molly Dugan, Cathedral Square**

**Charles J. Messing, Burlington Resident**

**Brian Pine, City of Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office**

**Kelly Stoddard Poor, AARP VT**

**Subject: HomeShare Vermont Pilot Incentive Program**

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On behalf of the Burlington Aging Council we are submitting a proposal for consideration by City Councilors serving on the CDNR Committee. The proposal we are asking the CDNR Committee to review and advance is a HomeShare Pilot Program aimed at supporting and promoting homesharing in Burlington through a tax incentive.

**HomeShare Background:** HomeShare Vermont is a non-profit organization that has developed a comprehensive and client-driven screening & matching process over the past 40 years to make the best in-home matches possible. HomeShare Vermont helps the State of Vermont meet two important goals by assisting our aging neighbors to stay at home, where they want to be, while at the same time helping others find an affordable place to live.

While there are no age or income restrictions for homesharing, most people sharing their homes (homeshare hosts) are elders or persons with a disability while most people looking for housing (homeshare guests) can't afford market rents. Their screening process focuses on safety and security. Each compatible match is unique and based upon the interests, needs, and lifestyles of the individuals involved. Homesharing is where two or more people share a home for mutual benefit.

**HomeShare Screening Process:** For each application received a minimum of 3 reference checks are performed, mostly by phone; and five different background checks are conducted before the person is considered for matching. The background checks include various criminal, abuse and fraud registries. Once the application is received an in-depth interview is conducted in order to get to know them and their interests and lifestyle, which is done via zoom or in a home visit.

**Benefits of HomeShare in FY 21:**

- Homeshare guests provided approximately 25,000 hours of assistance to seniors and others. This represents a savings of over \$380,000 for those sharing their home and their families if they had to hire help.<sup>1</sup>
- By sharing their homes, low income seniors and others received over \$220,000 in rental income to help them make ends meet.
- The average rent in a homesharing match was only \$323/month with 27% of matches paying \$0 rent. Using the difference between market rents and homeshare actual rents, it is estimated that homeshare guests saved over \$510,000 in rental expenses.<sup>2</sup>

**HomeShare Match Length:** The average homesharing match length was about 23 months this past year, which is a little longer than normal, which is likely a reflection of COVID because it has made it harder to get people to start new matches, but it seems to have encouraged matches to last a little longer. The average match length is calculated each year based on the matches that ended in that year and it typically fluctuates between 13-20 months.

### **FY 21 HomeShare Vermont: Results Based Accountability (RBA) Outcomes**

*This data is a combination of annual outcomes surveys of matched participants and client data and represents outcomes statewide and are not specific to Burlington alone.*

<b>How Well?</b>	Homeshare Average Match Length	692 days or 23 months		
	Participant Satisfaction	93% very satisfied 100% would recommend us to family or friends		
<b>Is Anyone Better off?</b>	Affordability of Housing	Average Rent	\$323	
	Ability of Seniors to Stay Safely at Home	46% of those sharing their home reported they would not be able to live safely and comfortably at home without a homesharer.		
	Improved Quality of Life: Those having someone live with them report they.....	Feel Happier	83%	
		Feel Less Lonely	83%	
		Feel Safer in their Home	81%	
		Sleep Better	51%	
Feel Healthier	51%			

#### **Pilot Program Incentive Program:**

**A Pilot Incentive Program would be aimed to support affordable housing and open up housing opportunities for those seeking housing in Burlington. The Burlington Aging Council (BAC) supports and recommends that the City of Burlington offer a pilot incentive program for homeowners, “host,” who provides a new homeshare match lasting a minimum of 12 months.**

<sup>1</sup> Calculation based on personal care assistant median wage - Bureau of Labor Statistics, VT State Occupation & Employment Wage Estimates

<sup>2</sup> Calculation based on fair markets rents for Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange and Washington Counties - US Department of Housing & Urban Development

- The incentive would be in the amount of \$1,000 (this is in line with other incentive programs found throughout the country)
- The incentive would not exceed 30 Burlington homeowners per year
- The \$1,000 incentive from the City of Burlington could be made available through property tax relief or another type of direct payment to the homeowner determined by councilors.
- The incentive would be made available after the homeshare match was verified by HomeShare Vermont after the 12 months.
- The homesharing match would be required to be created by, Home Share Vermont, a bonafide homesharing nonprofit organization and has a homesharing agreement signed by both the host and guest and they cannot be related individuals.
- An additional requirement of the Pilot Program would be a cap on rents at a maximum of \$650/month, given the goal of promoting affordable housing.
- The pilot program would be tested for 3 years and evaluated to determine continuation.

**HomeShare Vermont Client Data FY 15 – FY 21  
(July 1 – June 30 FY)**

There is a mismatch in the number of people seeking housing in Burlington vs. the number of homeownershomeshare hosts opening their home up for homesharing, see graph below. Burlington host applications have dropped more than their total host applications this past year (59% vs 44%). The overall decline is due to COVID but it is unclear as to why Burlington is so much higher.

		FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21
<b>Applications</b>	<i>All Hosts</i>	85	103	85	98	121	167	93
	<i>Burlington Hosts*</i>	9	16	13	16	18	17	7
	<i>Guests</i>	206	261	319	324	331	363	342
	<i>Total</i>	291	364	404	422	452	530	435
<b>Ratio Guests/Hosts Applications</b>		2.4	2.5	3.7	3.3	2.7	2.1	3.6
<b>Total Matches in Year</b>		82	87	98	105	101	108	92
<b>Matched Burlington Hosts</b>		28	20	22	29	28	24	18
<b>All Persons in a Match</b>		154	159	183	198	202	216	191
<b>Average Match Length (months)</b>		13	14	18	16	12	20	23
<b>Average Monthly Rent</b>		\$226	\$221	\$254	\$287	\$296	\$314	\$323
* Included in All Host Applications								